

Lyterisher, Sean S.; Mahon, Elias; Marquez, Anthony M.; Martin, Anika O.; Mason, Brittney Keith; Mason, James P.; Masters, Jonathan E.; McCoy, Nyia N.; McDermott, Brian; McKinney, Darlene A.; McLaughlin, Jonathan Evan; Mendozaguevara, Jose M.; Merritte, Ebony; Mlaka, Desiree J.; Mondragon Pina, S.; Moore, Shawn E.; Morad, Brandon; Morin, Jonathan; Morris, Joshua L.; Mote, Andrew A.; Naylor, Ryan A.; Newcomb, Douglas K.; Peacher, Matthew; Peck, Cody T.; Pena Andia, Wendy L.; Pitts, Cameron N.; Rastall, Brooke N.; Rathbone, William; Raymer, Nicholas M.; Rhodes, Trevon C.; Riggs, McKenzie W.; Rocha, Helena M.; Rodriguezramos, Herson C.; Rose, Eric M.; Roush, Casey A.; Russell, Carter; Schmitt, Phorrest J.; Shackleton, Christopher D.; Shry, Kelly L.; Smith, Latifah E.; Stephens, Caleb M.; Stotler, Corey A.; Taylor Lewis, Alexis B.; Thomas, Vanessa; Tuel, Chancellor K.; Turner, Seth; Turner, Walter B.; Vogel, Michael A.; Walker, Joshua; Williams, Lorenzo D.; Williams, Derek A.; Winans, Nikolos A.; Woodard, David E.; Young, Joseph K.

These students will be honored by the Greater Fredericksburg Chapter of Our Community Salutes at their 2nd Annual Military Enlistee Recognition Ceremony on Wednesday, June 5, 2013 at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these young men and women and their families for their dedication to serving this great Nation. We owe them and the many Americans who have served and will serve a debt of gratitude.

SMARTER SOLUTIONS FOR STUDENTS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1911, the Smarter Solutions for Students Act.

In a global economy, putting a college education within reach for every American has never been more important. But it's also never been more expensive. On July 1, the interest rate on subsidized Stafford student loans will double from 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent if Congress does nothing, increasing college costs for over 7 million students by \$1,000 per student, per loan. Unfortunately, this bill does not adequately provide the assistance our students need and instead exacerbates the college debt crisis.

According to estimates by the Congressional Budget Office, interest rates under H.R. 1911 will be higher than current fixed rates for millions of borrowers seven of the next ten years. Even more troubling, H.R. 1911 also includes provisions that will provide \$3.4 billion in debt reduction. It will be a sad day in American history if should the Congress decide to further burden struggling students to reduce a national debt they will already be paying for throughout the course of their lives.

In Texas and all across the country, students and recent college graduates are now facing the highest unemployment rate of any other group. By 2018, 63 percent of all Amer-

ican job openings will require some sort of postsecondary education. In order for our country to remain competitive, we need to make college more affordable and accessible. Political gimmicks such as H.R. 1911 will only discourage our Nation's students from pursuing an education.

With the cost of higher education continuing to skyrocket, I simply cannot support a measure that will increase the financial burden for millions of students and their families. If Americans fail to address this issue now, we will default on commitment to a better future for our children. We owe it to our young people to provide the opportunities that will allow them to become successful and productive adults.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CAPTAIN MARC DENNO

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Marc Denno, United States Navy, as he concludes his service as the 49th Commanding Officer of Naval Submarine Base New London. On behalf of southeastern Connecticut, I thank Captain Denno for his service, his leadership and his friendship to our community.

A native of Minnesota, Denno graduated from the Naval Academy in 1985 and went on to serve in a number of capacities throughout the Submarine Force, including Damage Control Assistant on the USS *George Bancroft* (SSBN 643), Engineer Officer on the USS *Bluefish* (SSN 675), Executive Officer of USS *West Virginia* (SSBN 736) (Blue) and Commanding Officer of Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU) *Jimmy Carter* (SSN 23). He served as Commanding Officer of the USS *City of Corpus Christi* (SSN 705), which, while under his command, was twice awarded the Battle "E" and earned the Meritorious Unit Commendation and Navy Unit Commendation. Captain Denno's shore assignments include the Shift Engineer and Material Officer at Nuclear Power Training Unit Charleston, as well as Chief Staff Officer and Director of the Tactical Analysis Group on the staff of Commander, Submarine Development Squadron Twelve.

It was during his tour as Commanding Officer of Submarine Base New London, however, that I got the chance to work closely with Captain Denno. Known both as the "First and Finest" submarine base in our Navy and the "Submarine Capitol of the World," Submarine Base New London is a military installation that is closely tied to the fabric of the community that surrounds it. In a region that follows developments on the base like a box score, Captain Denno's four year tour at the base was distinguished by a focus on the fundamentals of supporting the submarine force, a focus on the vitality and viability of the base, and deepening the connections between the base and its host community and state.

During his tenure, Captain Denno was an active leader in tending to the base's key mission area: the support and operation of the submarines assigned to New London. Under Captain Denno's leadership the base undertook close to \$200 million in major infrastruc-

ture projects and capital investment. Infrastructure improvements included the recapitalization of Pier 31 and the construction of a new Port Operations Center, a new Indoor Smalls Arms Range, and a new synthetic Track and Field, among other projects. As important, he led the demolition of 450,000 square feet of excess and outdated buildings and infrastructure that have reduced the footprint and operating costs of the base. And, working joining with the State of Connecticut, Captain Denno deepened the relationship between the base and its host state through a unique partnership. Under Captain Denno's command and through his collaboration with State officials, Connecticut invested unprecedented resources into the future of the base, supporting new projects like a new diver facility, an up to date boiler for the power plant, critical additions to training facilities, and a joint project with the local communities to address encroachment issues.

Beyond the nuts and bolts of base infrastructure, Captain Denno prioritized efforts to deepen the connection between the sailors assigned to New London and the surrounding community. Under his watch, 9,000 members of the base community contributed 47,000 community service volunteer hours in the region in local schools and in a number of organizations like the American Red Cross, the Boy and Girls Scouts of American, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and the Special Olympics. And, Captain Denno was instrumental in broader regional events like OPSAIL Connecticut 2012, in which he helped to coordinate Navy involvement in this daunting undertaking, from working with the local community to support the event to coordinating naval vessel participation—and many things in between.

From being a constant presence at community meetings to spearheading stakeholder orientation tours of the base, leading key military education initiatives and being the public face of the base, Captain Denno was a fixture in the southeastern Connecticut community during his four years at SUBASE New London. It is no wonder then that SUBASE New London was selected from among the region's more than 20 other installations and activities as the unprecedented winner for two consecutive years of the annual Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic's Award for Installation Excellence, in 2010 and 2011.

As you might imagine, a good working relationship with SUBASE New London and its Commanding Officer is a prerequisite for anyone in the position of representing eastern Connecticut in Congress. However, I consider myself privileged to have worked so closely with Captain Denno over the last four years not just in his capacity as a Navy officer, but as a friend and occasional golf partner. He and his team have never been more than a phone call or email away, and the connection between his office and mine has been nothing short of a two way street as we tackled the key challenges facing the base. I am grateful for his time, his advice, his counsel and most of all, his unflagging commitment to Connecticut's base and the sailors and submarine stationed at it.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking Captain Denno for his service to SUBASE New London and wishing him and his family "fair winds and following seas" as he heads to his next assignment in service to our country.

A SALUTE TO FLORIDA NATIVE
WILLIAM R. ELLIS

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2013

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize William R. Ellis who has been an integral part of Brevard County, Florida for more than 50 years. Bill currently serves as the Vice President of Government and Industry Relations for Health First, Inc. in Meltourne, Florida. He will retire from that position on June 14, 2013, after 57 years of distinguished service to our community and the State of Florida.

For the past 15 years, Mr. Ellis has been responsible for all governmental and industry relations for Health First, Inc. Bill also currently serves as a consultant for The Viera Company and has served as a consultant for the Governmental and Community Affairs of the Canaveral Port Authority. In that position, Bill was responsible for maintaining community and governmental relations locally and statewide.

Bill Ellis is well recognized for his early years of service. From 1956–1982 he served in various managerial positions with the Florida Power & Light Company in Brevard County, Florida. From 1982–1986 he held the position of Federal and State Regulatory Representative in Washington DC and in Tallahassee, Florida. From 1986–1991 he served as District General Manager with Florida Power & Light Company in West Palm Beach, Florida. From 1991–1993 he served as an Area Manager for Florida Power & Light Company in Brevard County, Florida and retired in 1993. From 1993–1998 he served as the Director of Public Affairs for the Canaveral Port Authority in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Bill's community service includes: past President and current Board Member for BCC Foundation and Brevard Cultural Alliance; Secretary of Civilian Military Affairs Council; past Chairman of Brevard County Tourist Development Council; past Chairman of Cocoa Beach Area Chamber of Commerce; past Chairman and current Executive Committee and Board Member EDC Government Relations of the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast; Board of Governors, Executive Committee, Florida Chamber of Commerce; Chairman of Governmental Relations Committee for the Melbourne-Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce; past President and member of the Space Coast Tiger Bay Club; and past Chairman of United Way. Bill is also member of the following professional associations: the American Hospital Association; the Associated Industries of Florida; the Florida Hospital Association; Keep Brevard Beautiful; the Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce; and serves as an associate member with the Florida League of Cities.

Bill Ellis is married to Carol, with 3 grown children and 5 grandchildren. He is a 4th generation Floridian and was raised and educated in the Florida school system.

Bill has been an integral part of Brevard County for more than 50 years and for that we are grateful. Bill and Carol will be missed as they leave Brevard and relocate further south. Now, that community will be the beneficiaries of their commitment to service.

Thank you for making the Space Coast and Brevard County a better place.

RECOGNIZING SNOOTY THE
MANATEE'S 65TH BIRTHDAY

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2013

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Snooty the Manatee's 65th Birthday.

Snooty is an ambassador for wildlife preservation, a local celebrity, and tourist attraction to Manatee County, most of which I represent in Congress.

Born on July 21st, 1948, Snooty is the world's oldest known living manatee.

Since June 20, 1949 he has lived at South Florida Museum in Bradenton, Florida, where researchers from New College of Florida and Mote Marine are able to learn more about the health and life cycles of manatees.

Manatees frequently suffer from both man-made and natural hazards, such as red tide, cold water, boat strikes, and, in the past, hunting.

Snooty is one of the most popular representatives for endangered species.

He has fostered 26 manatees recuperating from illness or injury and is currently sharing his 60,000 gallon fresh water pool with two young rescued manatees, Cheeno and Longo.

Snooty has also contributed to public education by appearing on Captain Kangaroo in 1982 and greeting more than 2 million visitors of all ages who learn about manatee care, conservation, eating habits, reproduction and physiology.

He reaches people world-wide on the "Snooty Cam," an online, live webcast.

The beloved Manatee was declared the County's official mascot by the Manatee County Commission on April 4, 1979.

I appreciate this opportunity to recognize the many contributions Snooty has made to the world's knowledge of Manatee's and encourage my constituents to participate in Snooty's 65th Birthday Bash and Wildlife Awareness Festival on July 20.

CONGRATULATING U.S. SOUTHERN
COMMAND ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2013

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) on their 50th anniversary, and to commend its exemplary service to the United States in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean.

SOUTHCOM provides invaluable contingency planning, operations, and security cooperation to the volatile region, and has been an invaluable asset to the area. Whether it be through deterring illegal activities such as drug trafficking, dismantling transnational organized crime networks, or fostering alternatives to criminal influence in under-governed areas. SOUTHCOM has consistently supported the region for all their security needs, and has strengthened the regions defense capabilities.

Recently, vital humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions have underscored the

importance of their presence in the South Florida community. For example, in 2010 SOUTHCOM led Operation Unified Response, in which a force of about 22,000 troops, more than 30 ships, and 300 aircraft provided life-saving assistance and distributed millions of pounds of food and water in Haiti following its devastating earthquake.

With an economic impact of \$600 million on Miami-Dade County, SOUTHCOM's positive influence is keenly felt throughout the community. SOUTHCOM personnel are mainstays in community organizations and contribute an astonishing 30,000 volunteer hours each year to local charity groups, community projects, and events. Moreover, by participating in activities such as color guard presentations at sporting events and parades, and giving speeches at meetings sponsored by local organizations, we are all reminded of our civic duty and the sacrifices made by those who serve.

SOUTHCOM has become an invaluable organization for the state of Florida, the Nation as a whole, and the region it serves. I am extremely proud to have SOUTHCOM in my Congressional district, and I am confident that they will continue to represent the interests of the United States with distinction.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate SOUTHCOM as they celebrate this milestone. I am certain that we can all look forward to many more years of outstanding service, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing SOUTHCOM's achievement.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF KEVIN KUHN AND ANDY MOTEL

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 3, 2013

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kevin Kuhn and Andy Motel for their years of dedicated and distinguished service to Charlestown Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Kevin Kuhn, Charlestown Township Supervisor and Member of the Open Space Commission, and Andy Motel, Charlestown Township Planning Commissioner and Member of the Open Space Commission, have each demonstrated exceptional commitment to the concerns of Charlestown Township's residents by working to permanently preserve over 30 percent of Charlestown Township as open space. They have each worked to maintain the historic and rural character of the Township with diligence and unwavering leadership. Additionally, Kevin Kuhn and Andy Motel have helped to enable Charlestown Township to expand the hiking and equestrian trail network, provide additional stream protection, and to slow residential growth.

Kevin Kuhn and Andy Motel have been the principal leaders in open space preservation for Charlestown Township and have spearheaded efforts to negotiate with various entities while keeping the community abreast of all such developments. Through their energies and direction, the Charlestown Township Board of Supervisors has managed the Earned Income Tax and Open Space Fund to ensure all resources are invested wisely.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of their years of service and commitment to the preservation of